Preserving History in Two Counties and Three Towns

1. Colfax Signs

2. Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

3. Strevell House National Register Sign

4. Fairbury Echoes Museum Awning

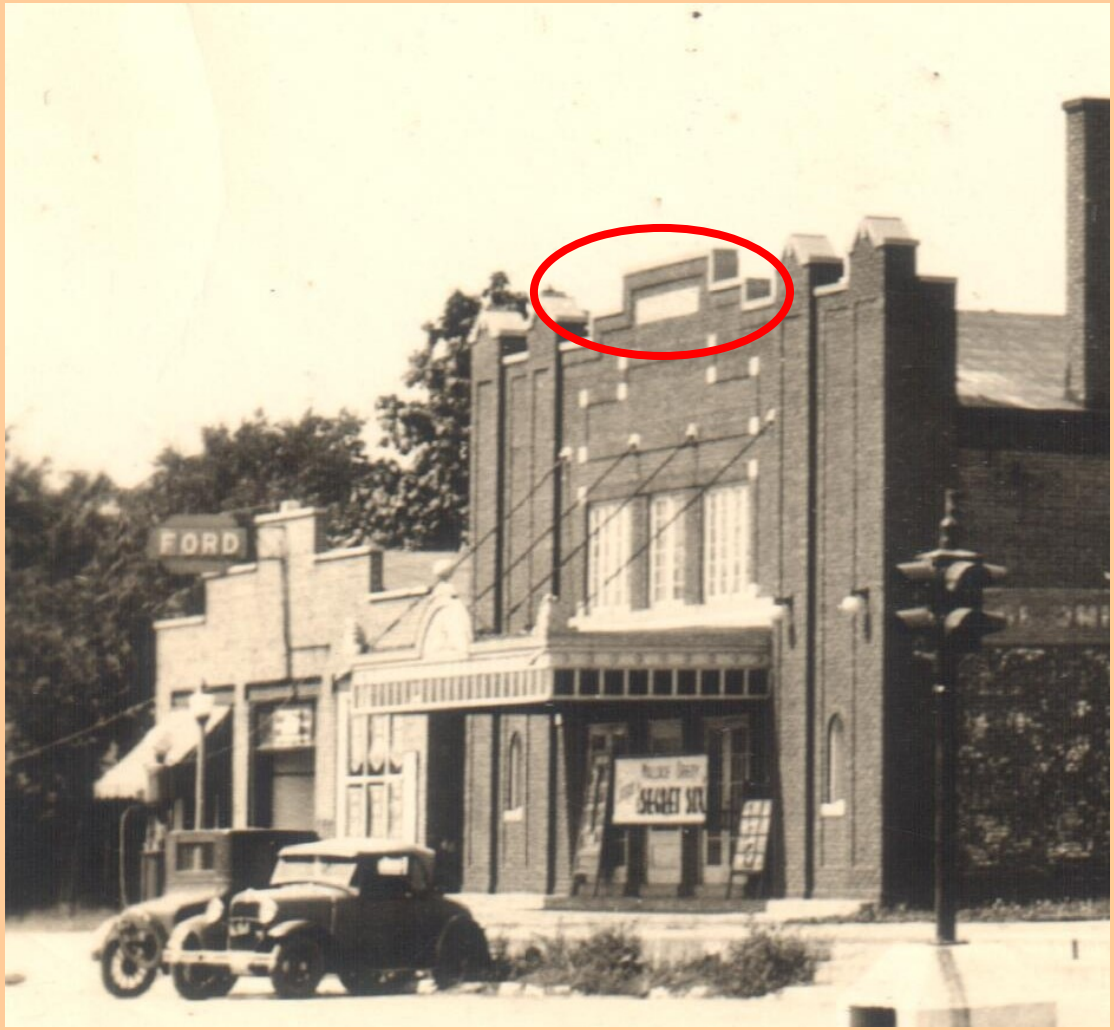
5. Fairbury Livingston Square Park Sign

6. Painting Trim on Jones House

Colfax

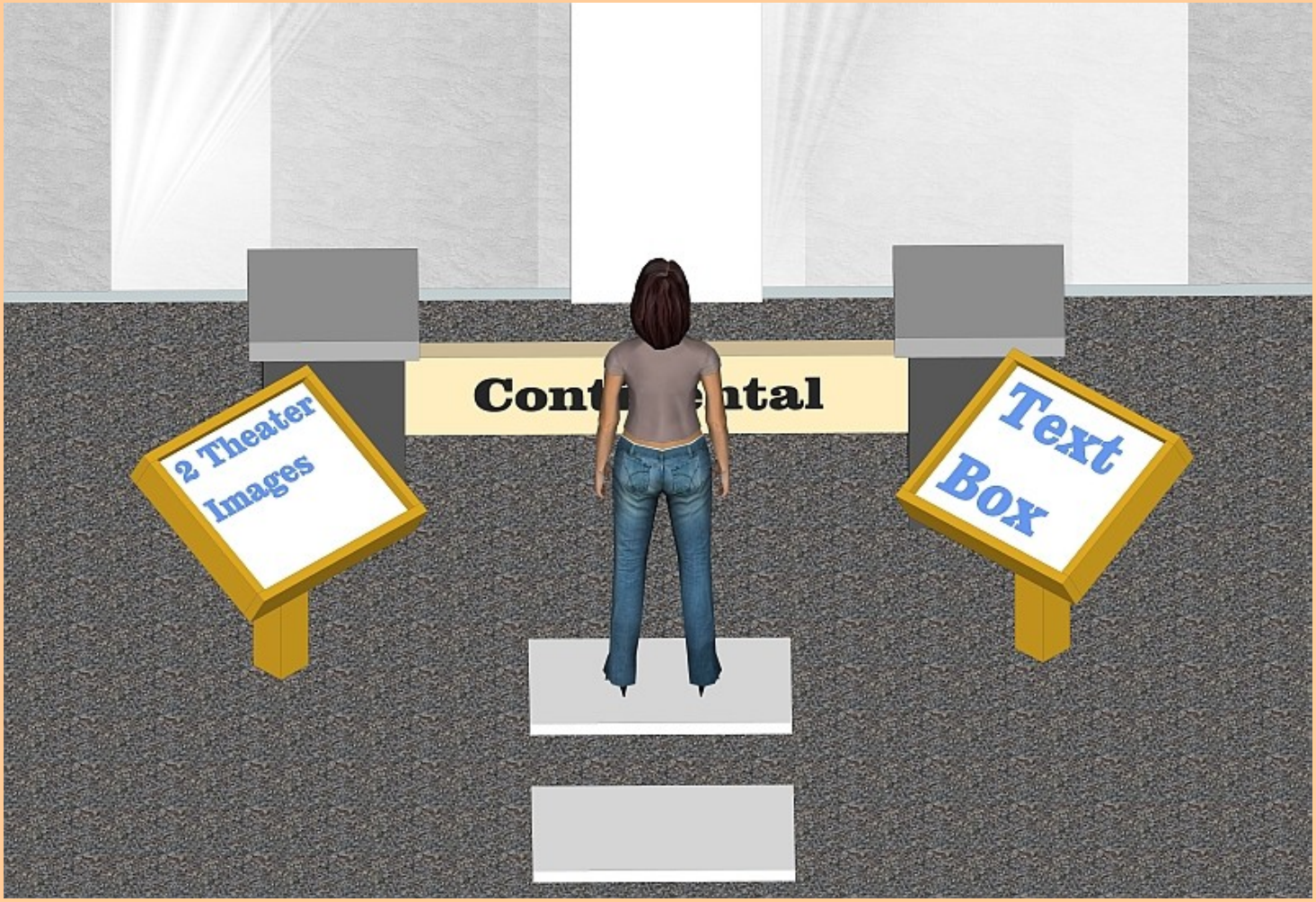
Installed (4) Historic Murals in Summer of 2022

Colfax



Saved “Keystone” from Continental Theater

Colfax



Saved “Keystone” from Continental Theater

Colfax

“Bielfeldt” Story

Colfax

Colonial Theatre

The Colonial Theatre was located in the 100 block of West Main St. in downtown Colfax. A.H. Arnold, a Colfax businessman, built it in the summer of 1917 from start-to-finish in only 90 days.

The Colonial's auditorium was 40x80 feet and had seating for 500. It celebrated its grand opening on Monday, Nov. 5, 1917, and presented a variety of music programs, stage plays and matinee and evening movies.

The Colonial was often used for other purposes in its heyday, including a recruitment drive during World War II to find workers for the massive Aluminum Co. of America plant in McCook; school concerts and graduations; and children's Christmas parties.

Fred Weppler owned the Colonial for much of the 1950s and '60s. The increasing popularity of the automobile following World War II, however, made it easier for people to travel to Bloomington and Colfax's movie house found it difficult to compete, eventually contributing to Mr. Weppler's closure of the theatre in 1968.

In May 1970, the Eugene Grosse family purchased the Colonial and reopened it in June with a showing of the movie Winning. The theatre closed again on September 1, 1974, following a final presentation of Old Yeller and then for many years afterward served as a welding shop operated by Todd Harris.

The bank purchased the building in the spring of 2017 and tore it down in the fall of 2018.

The sign you are looking at stood atop the Colonial Theatre from its inception until it was torn down in 2018.

Colfax

2 New Signs Completed in Colfax

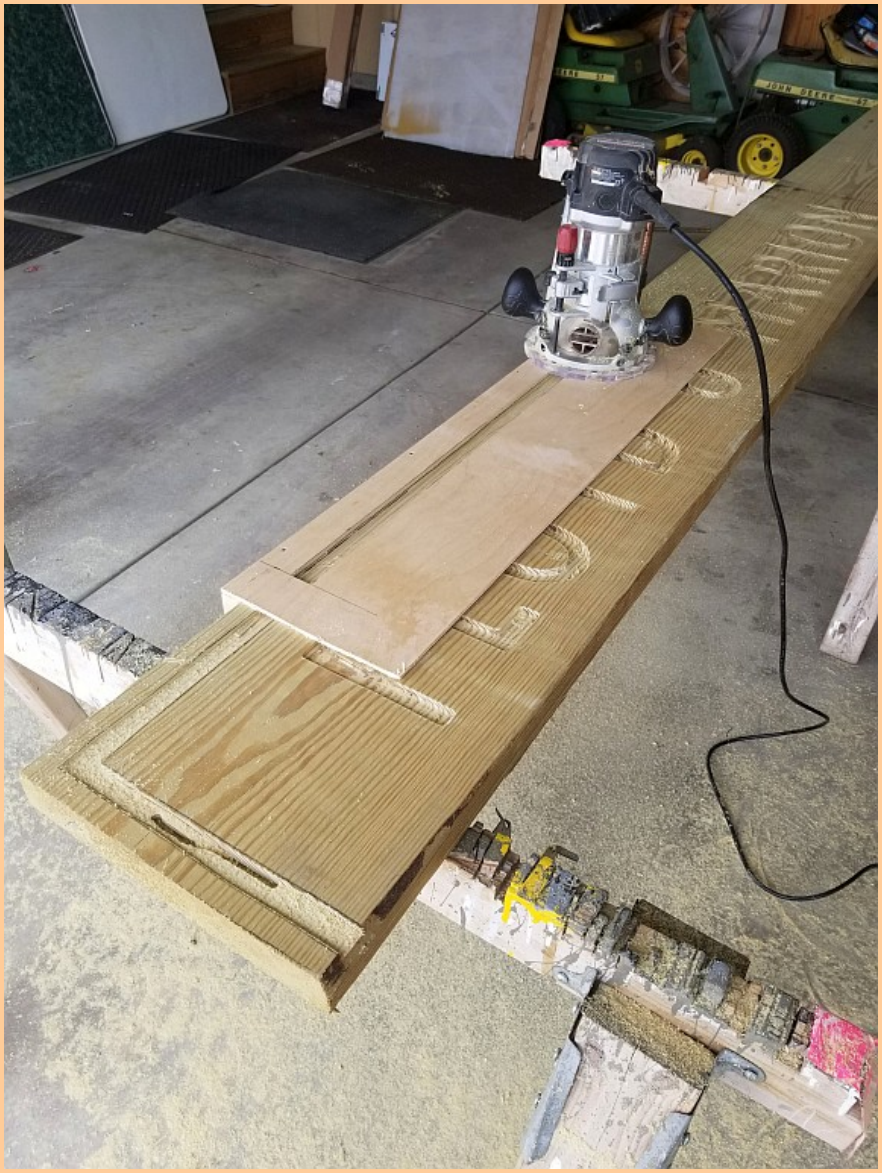
Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

Top board rotted away…3 by 10 foot sign!

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

Taking apart old sign.
Note 2 supports for old and new signs.

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign



Routed letters and border in my Fairbury garage ☺

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

Luan pattern for router

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

- 2 coats primer
- 2 coats white letters
- 2 coats dark brown

(small brush around letters)

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

- Brush stroke away from letters !

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

Finishing touches on new sign

Fairbury Swimming Pool Sign

Old Sign

New Sign

- Photos do not show how good new sign really looks !!

- Everyone likes the new sign ☺

Strevell House National Register Sign

- During June drought, ground so hard that could not drive in a wood stake !!
- Anchored post to steps, and a flower pot ☺

Strevell House National Register Sign

- Was installed well before Aug. 5, 2023, celebration event ☺

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

•Old awning held together with “baling wire” to survive Winter of 2022/2023 !

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

•Not feasible to repair…

-new corrugated roof sheet metal not available

-Rusted support pipes and rods

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Removing the old Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

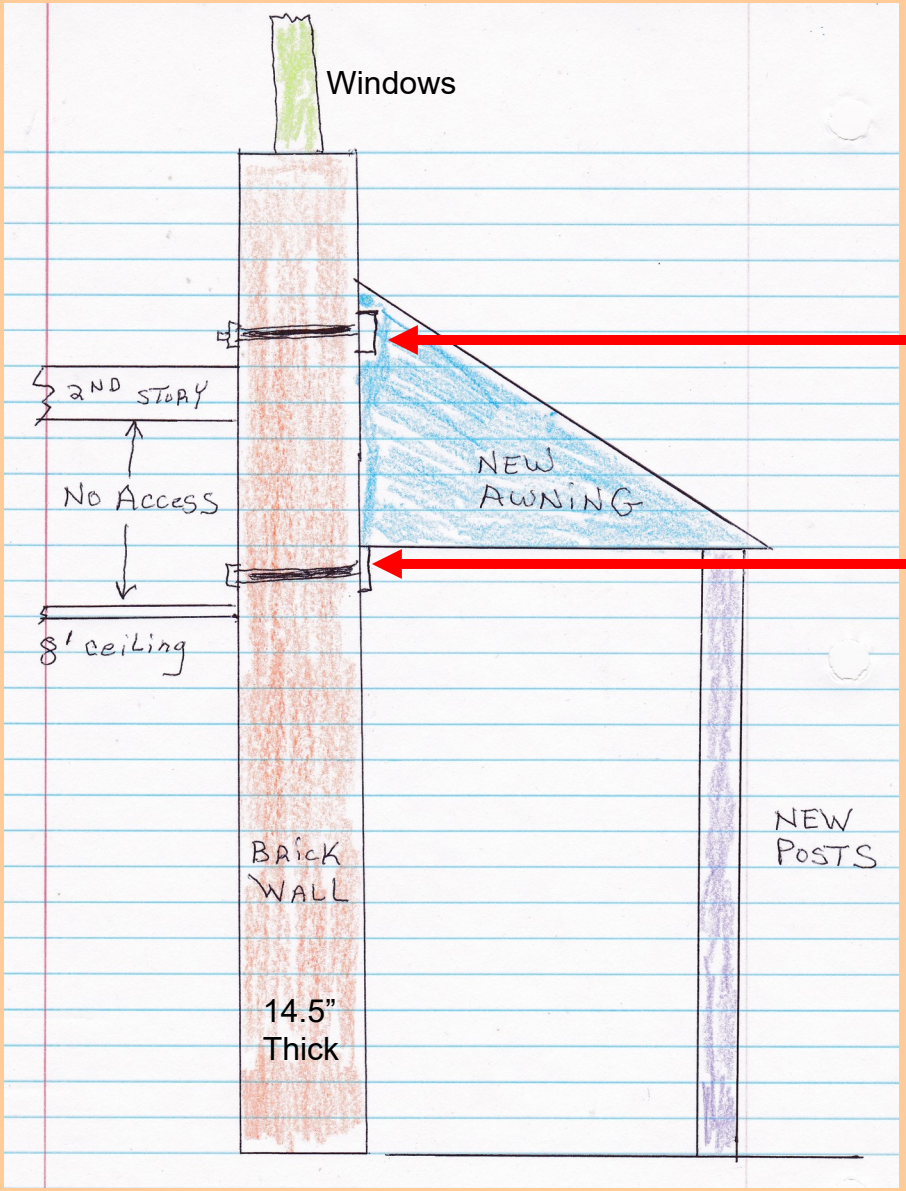
A Surprise behind the white sheet metal siding !!

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Make new awning for Museum similar to existing Odd Fellows awning.

-sloped wood roof
-shingled
-Vertical post supports

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

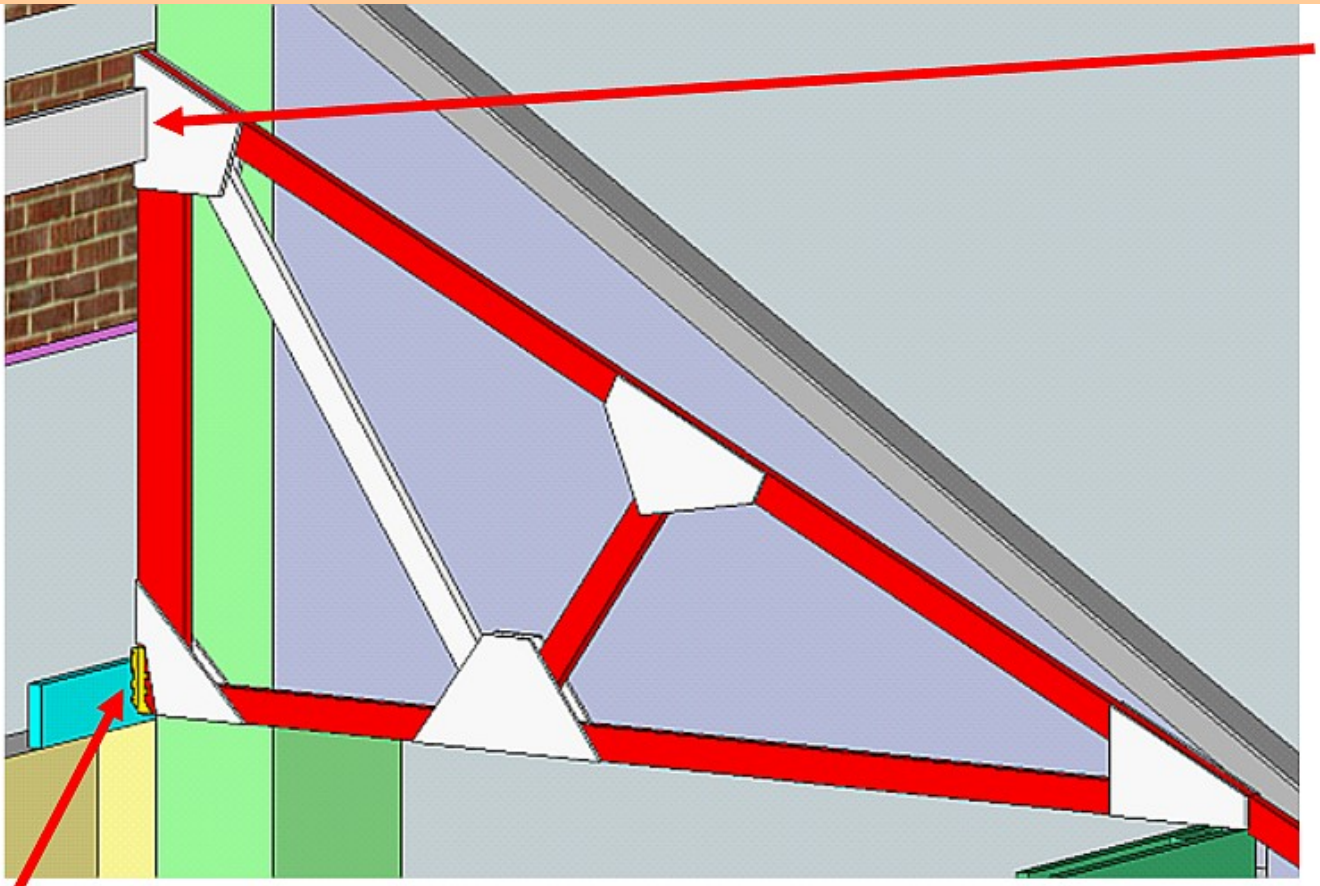


How to support new trusses on the brick wall?

Old 2x6" wood plate & bolts thru brick wall

"Ideal" location for new wood plate to support trusses, but no access to put in the bolts thru brick wall???

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning



Truss will be notched to fit new 2x8 board bolted thru the brick wall with ½" bolts.

New Truss made from 2x4' except vertical piece against the wall will be 2x6 because it is notched.

Plywood gusset plates glued and screwed.

Steel truss/joist hanger Nailed to 2x6.

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

- Trusses will be “Custom” with top notch for mounting & allowance for steel brackets at bottom

- Did not think I could order them from the lumberyard

- Last time I made home-made wood trusses was when I was 10 years old back in 1965 to build a chicken house on the farm !!

- Awning is 26 feet wide, using 16” on-centers will require making 20 home-made trusses !!!!!!

- Takes 300 pieces of wood to make 20 trusses
  -(4) 2x4’s, (1) 2x6, 10 gusset plates for each truss

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

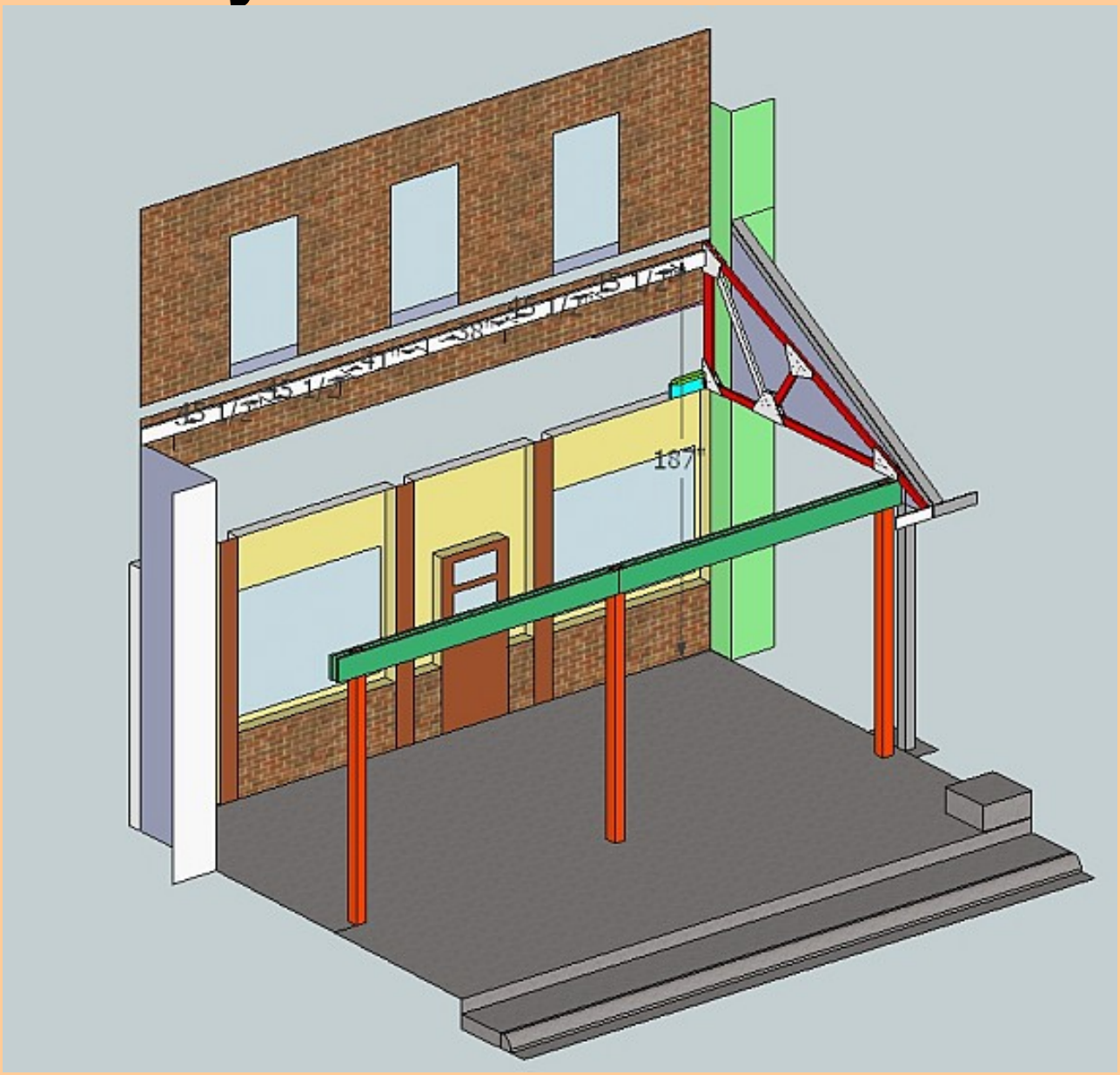
Grandson Caleb Maley helped build trusses.

In the year 2063, he can drive down Main Street in Fairbury and say “I helped my grandpa build that Museum awning” ☺ ☺

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning



Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Ready for Trusses ☺

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Moisture in concrete seeps into wood posts and rots them eventually.

1” space between concrete and 6x6 wood post.

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

56 Lbs.
Dry

Wet
Weight??

Test truss Success !!

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

18 Trusses stage and ready to install

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Randy Doran and Dale taking break from truss setting ☺

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Plywood Sheeting

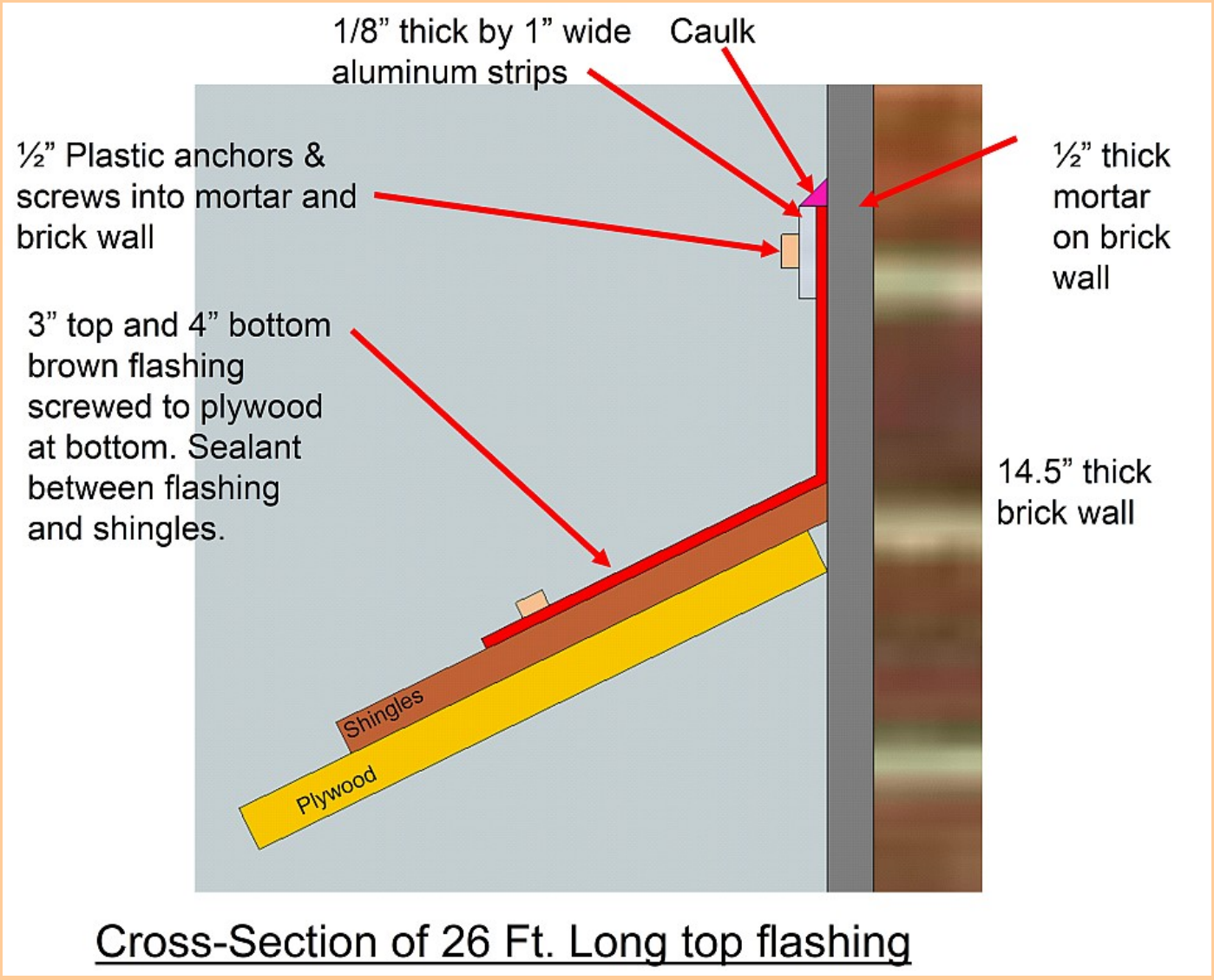
Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Tar paper

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Architectural Shingles – half done

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning


1/8” thick by 1” wide aluminum strips
Caulk
½” Plastic anchors & screws into mortar and brick wall
½” thick mortar on brick wall
3” top and 4” bottom brown flashing screwed to plywood at bottom. Sealant between flashing and shingles.
14.5” thick brick wall
Shingles
Plywood

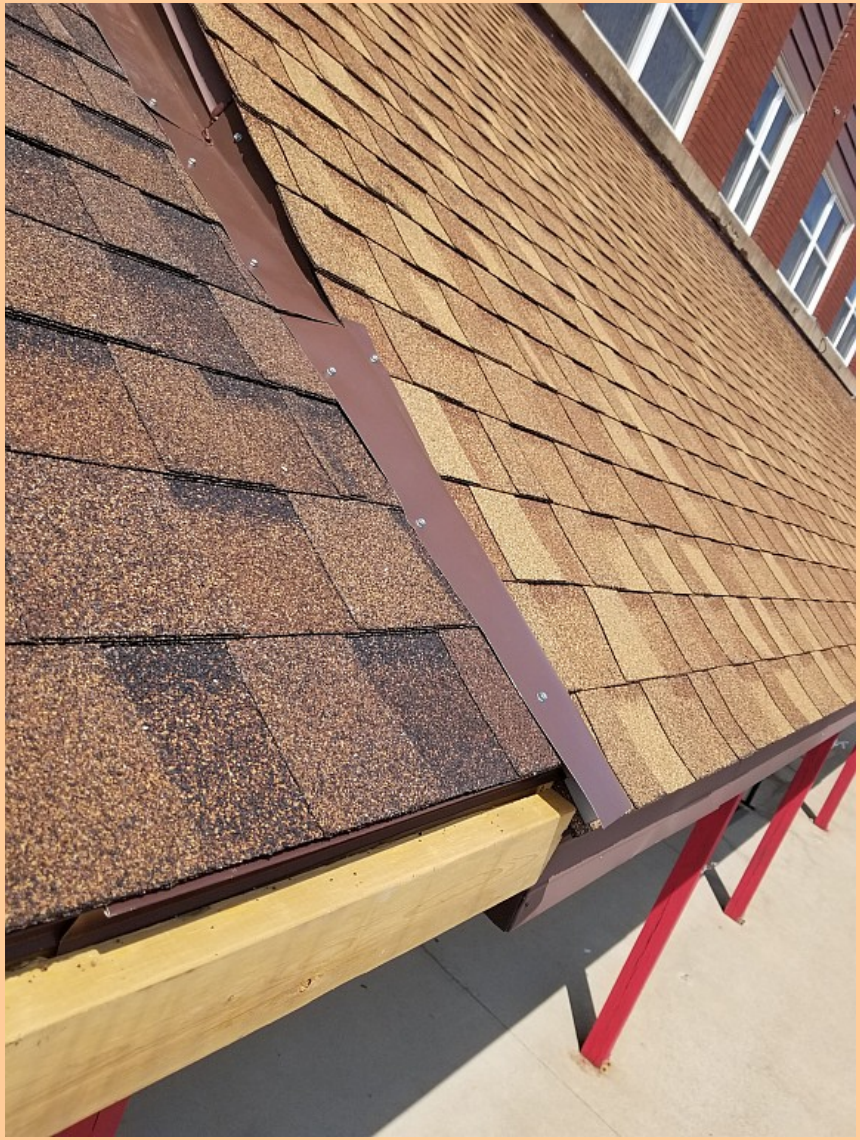
Cross-Section of 26 Ft. Long top flashing

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Ambient Temp was 93F for several days !!

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning



- Roofs at 2 different angles !

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Supervision from Grand-children !

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

- Vinyl siding on west side
- Aluminum soffit and facia
- All exposed wood wrapped in brown aluminum
- No painting ☺

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

- Hang string loop at far end
- Slip tin into loop on far end
- Raise other end on ladder
- Tie near side end with string
- Position and screw
- 3x10 foot sheets

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

- Awning finished
- Looking at underneath

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Painted Occident Flour sign several years ago.

Museum awning finished Aug. 8, 2023

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Finished Awning

- Project took 8 weeks
- Took long time to hand-build 20 trusses with 300 pieces of wood!

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Old Awning – June 3, 2023

New Awning – August 8, 2023

Fairbury Echoes Museum new Awning

Added new sign.

Can read while traveling either direction on Main Street

“Mr., Do you need a hand?” Story

Livingston Square Park Sign

Before

After

Livingston Square Park Sign

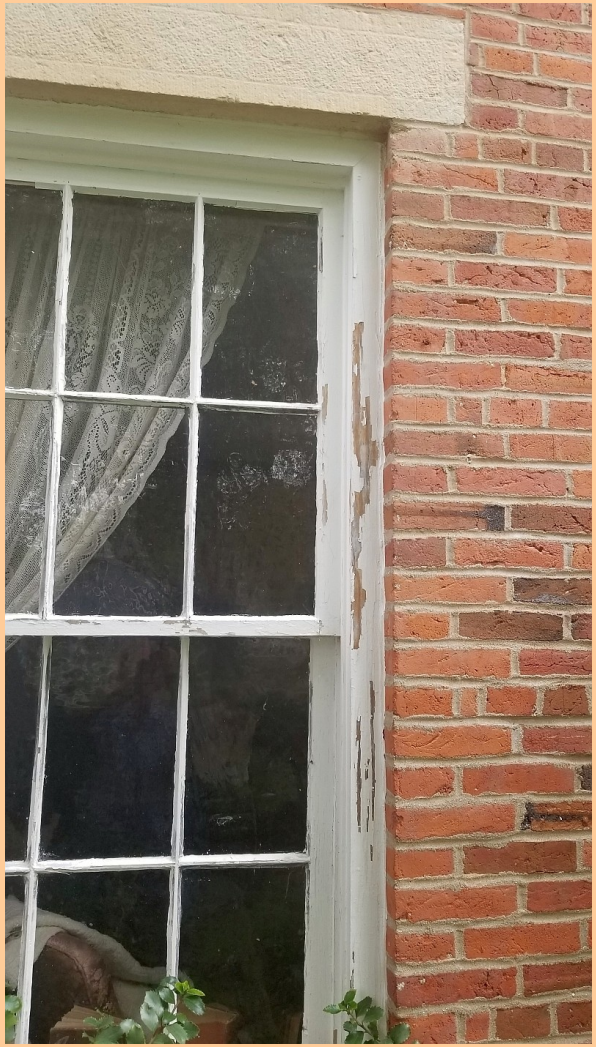
Karen Maley – Munz Volunteers to be Gardener

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

Before Painting

After Painting

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac



Before

After

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

Wood stepladder on South Porch roof to reach high points

*25 Wasp Story….

Aluminum extension ladder to get on South Porch Roof

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

Man-lift rented from Fairbury Ace to reach all the high points

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

After trim painting completed

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

After trim painting completed

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

After trim painting completed

Painting Trim at Jones House - Pontiac

- 2024 Projects at Jones House
  - -3 Wood Siding Repairs
  - -1 Soffit Repair
  - -Recoat north & south porch roofs

The End

Questions?